

58. The brace of claim 57 wherein the fastening elements are screws.
59. The brace of claim of 51 further comprising fastening elements for non-removably fastening the belt to the first back element.
60. The brace of claim 59 wherein the fastening elements are rivets.
61. The brace of claim 51 wherein the belt is formed integrally with the first back element.
62. The brace of claim 51 wherein the belt interlocks with the first back element so as to impart additional stabilizing force to the back element.

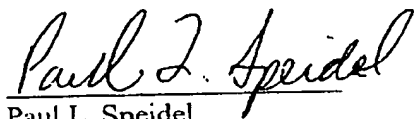
REMARKS

As suggested by the SPE, the Applicant is filing an Amendment canceling claims 1-30 inadvertently placed in the prosecution file of instant application Serial No. 09/705,861, and adding claims 31-62, which consist of those claims originally filed by Applicant in the instant application. In response to this Amendment, the SPE indicated that the Examiner would withdraw the November 12, 2002 Election/Restrictions Requirement without prejudice in the instant application and issue a new Office Action based on claims 31-62. The SPE also informed the Applicant that no fees for extensions of time are required for this Amendment. The Applicant thanks the Examiner and SPE for their assistance in resolving this matter. Should any question arise concerning this Amendment, or the above-identified application in general, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. However, should the USPTO determine such a fee is required, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such a fee, and any other fee to Lucash Gesmer & Updegrove PTO Deposit Account No. 122315.

Respectfully submitted,

Boston Brace International, Inc.



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